

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jiro Nagaoka et al. Confirmation No.: 8623
Serial No. : 09/763,523
Filed : February 23, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2876
Examiner : A. A. Taylor

Docket No. : 01-162
Customer No.: 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the prior art listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed, which prior art was cited in the corresponding European search report.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,277,837;
- (2) International Publication No. WO 97/30414;
- (3) French Patent No. 2 745 103;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,844,244;
- (5) Patent Abstracts of Japan Publication No. 08-129630;
- and
- (6) Patent Abstracts of Japan Publication No. 09-312076.


The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in the European search report issued on August 31, 2004.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for

independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Jiro Nagaoka et al.

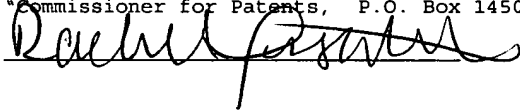
By 
Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicants

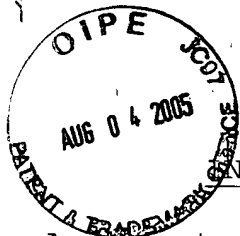
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Date: August 2, 2005

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PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2)

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby request that the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application consider the Information Disclosure Statement being submitted concurrently herewith.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed. If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

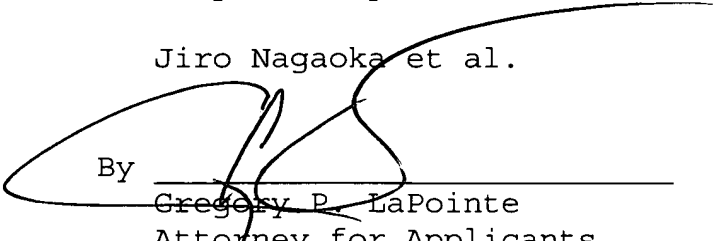
Jiro Nagaoka et al.

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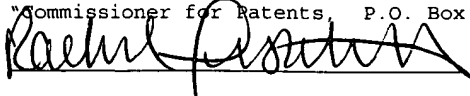
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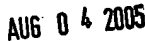
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Date: August 2, 2005

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Substitute for don-4459/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/762,523
Filing Date	February 23, 2001
First Named Inventor	Jiro Nagaoka et al.
Art Unit	2876
Examiner Name	A. A. Taylor
Attorney Docket Number	01-162

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		WO 97/30414	08-21-1997	Boiron		
		FR 2 745 103	02-15-1996	Boiron		
		JP 08-129630	05-21-1996	Takasugi et al.		
		JP 09-312076	12-02-1997	Kobayashi et al		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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